

Award Winners

Realizing the Dream *Horizon* Award



The MLK 2013 Horizon Award is presented to a youth or young adult in the community for demonstrating outstanding vision and hope that promotes social justice, equality and peace.

University of Alabama student **Lubna Alansari** promotes international studies in public schools and works to foster understanding in Alabama. She was born in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, and was raised in the industrial city of Jubail until she was 12, when she moved back to Al-Khobar. She graduated as the valedictorian of her class at the Al-Saad National Girls High School in Al-Khobar in 2010. In high school, Alansari started a model U.N. and robotics club. The robotics club brought her to the International Robocup Tournament in Atlanta in 2007; her team ranked 15 out of 45 countries. She also participated in the school's speech and debate team. In 2009, she won first place in the annual speech contest in the Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia. At UA, she is studying chemical and biological engineering; she hopes to graduate in 2015. Alansari strives to counter prejudice and stereotypes in Alabama by speaking on campus and in the community about her religion and the culture of her homeland. For example, Alansari is the current president of the Alabama International Relations Club, which sends students to Model U.N. activities throughout the country. In 2011 and 2012, she led the club's Black Belt Development Initiative, which helped a group from Hale County High School to participate in the Model U.N. conference at UA. She is a leader in the engineering scholar fraternity Theta Tau. She enjoys practicing karate, playing tennis and painting. She has traveled to France, Switzerland, The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sri Lanka; her dream is to some day visit India and bring back memories, stories and a taste of India's rich culture.

Realizing the Dream *Mountaintop* Award



The MLK 2013 Mountaintop Award is a lifetime achievement award presented to an individual in the community who has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to the dream and who, in so doing, has furthered the cause for social justice, equality and peace.

Dr. Paula Sue Burnum-Hayes is recognized for the New Options for Women program, which she conceived, designed and directed during her 20-year tenure at Shelton State Community College. The program, which Burnum-Hayes ran from 1985 to 1998, received funding through the Title III National Displaced Homemaker Act. More than 500 women enrolled in the New Options program, which encouraged participants to achieve economic independence and personal fulfillment – goals many of them reached. On the occasion of a reunion of participants on Oct. 13, 2012, which celebrated the success of New Options, Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox proclaimed "New Options Recognition Day." Burnum-Hayes is a native of Tuscaloosa and graduated from UA in 1956 with a major in English and a minor in art history; she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She also earned a master's degree in English instruction at the University of Florida and a doctorate in educational leadership at UA in 1983. As a UA student, she supported the enrollment of Autherine Lucy, an African-American. Burnum-Hayes, who was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and Canterbury Chapel, joined other members of UA's Interfaith Council in circulating leaflets in favor of integrating UA. The leaflets asked readers, "What would Jesus do?" This early attempt ultimately failed, but Burnum-Hayes continued her support of civil rights. Later in her career, she was a member of the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights and the Lee County Association for Human Rights. In addition to Shelton, Burnum-Hayes taught at Stillman College, UA, Tuskegee Institute and Savannah State College. Burnum-Hayes raised four children: Paul, Andy, John and Susanna.

Realizing the Dream *Call to Conscience* Award



The MLK 2013 Call to Conscience Award is presented to an individual in the community for demonstrating outstanding leadership and courage that help to establish social justice, equality and peace.

Michael Culver is a leader in area efforts to help veterans and their families. As a transition patient advocate for the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center, he interviews and works directly with veterans to make sure they receive the benefits they have earned and require. His Welcome Home Veterans program, which has been running for more than five years, provides a place to connect veterans back from recent deployment and families with the resources they need. He led the 2012 Feds Feed Families food drive, in which federal workers collected more than 2,500 pounds of food for The Salvation Army and Catholic Services charities. Culver also has run clothing drives for indigent and homeless veterans.

He also actively helps veterans in the judicial system across 14 counties. He coaches law enforcement staff on crisis intervention, suicide prevention and substance abuse caused by post-traumatic stress disorder or military service. To date, Culver has helped nearly 600 veterans in the judicial system. He lobbies for treatment instead of incarceration, and his efforts have helped bring justice and healing to veterans, families and communities. Culver was born and raised in Indiana and served 21 years in the U.S. Army in law enforcement; he retired as a noncommissioned officer working in the training and supervision of law-enforcement personnel. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from ITT Technical Institute and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.